

REC'D JAN 07 2009

# ALTERNATIVE PLAN SUBMITTAL SHEET

School Administrative Unit Submitting Alternative Plan:

- MSAD #9

Contact Information:

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Date Plan Submitted by SAU: 1/7/2009

**The intent to submit an alternative plan has been approved by the Commissioner in the approval of the Notice of Intent?**

☒ YES

☐ NO

(If NO, please explain.)

## Alternative Plan Cover Sheet

(Please attach Alternative Plan as Exhibit A)

Plan Requirements				
Item	Complete	In Progress	Not Yet Started	Need Assistance <sup>1</sup>
Plan addresses how the SAU will reorganize administrative functions, duties and noninstructional personnel so that projected expenditures of RSU in fiscal 2008-2009 for the following areas will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program.				
<b>system administration</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>transportation</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>special education</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>facilities and maintenance</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plan addresses how cost savings will be achieved in fiscal 2008-2009 for the above four areas.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parameters for Plan Development				
Enrollment meets requirements (2,500 except where circumstances justify an exception)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When viewed in conjunction with surrounding proposed units, may not result in one or more municipalities being denied the option to join an RSU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Includes at least one publicly supported high school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consistent with policies set forth in section 1451	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No displacement of teachers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No displacement of students	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No closures of schools existing or operating during school year immediately preceding reorganization, except as permitted under section 1512	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collaborative Agreements				
		Yes	No	
Does your plan currently include information/documentation on collaborative agreements? <i>(not required, but encouraged)</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<sup>1</sup> Please explain what assistance you need to complete this portion of your plan, and state from whom you need assistance, on the next page.

**Actual number of students for which the SAU is fiscally responsible: 2,437**

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Exception	Exception Claimed in Plan	Documentation Provided? (Please attach as Exhibit B)	
		Yes	No
Geography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Demographics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Population Density	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Unique Circumstances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Assistance Needs –

Please use this section to describe your needs for assistance and from whom you need assistance.

[illegible]

**MSAD #9's Submission of an Alternative Plan January 7, 2009**

MSAD #9 is filing an Alternative Plan, noting how it has been and will continue to be considered an efficient and effective school system. The MSAD #9 Board of Directors worked on establishing a new RSU with MSAD #58, Coplin and Highland Plantations but the plan was not approved by MSAD #9 voters. The Board of Directors has reorganized administrative functions and created other efficiencies which have not and will not, harm instruction programs.

**Reasons for Submitting an Alternative Plan:**

- (1) The voters rejected our attempt to consolidate with area school systems.
- (2) We have a current student enrollment that exceeds 2,375 students
- (3) Geographically, the district is already a large rural district that covers an area of approximately 450 square miles.
- (4) All other area units have entered into or are in the process of entering into consolidation agreements with neighboring systems.
- (5) Our district is an active participant in the Western Maine Educational Collaborative and shares employees and services with several neighboring systems, which results in further efficiencies and savings. Examples are given below.

**Efficiency:**

**System/School Administration:**

The Central Office staff has been reduced over the last three years. We previously had three full time persons for accounts payable, payroll, business manager, and part-time accounts payable/payroll position and a human resources/personnel secretary. We now have a half-time accounts payable employee, who we share 50/50 with MSAD #58. We still have a full time payroll position, which is also shared 80/20 with MSAD #58. Our human resources/personnel employee also serves as the secretary for the assistant superintendent/curriculum coordinator. The part-time accounts payable/payroll position was eliminated when the individual filling the position moved out of the area.

We have automated our time clock, payroll, and purchase order systems.

The position of Assistant Superintendent is now assigned curriculum coordination within the district. In the past we hired outside consultants to do some curriculum work and also to oversee our grants. The Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum Coordinator now writes and oversees all grants and oversees all curriculum and assessment implementation.

We eliminated an Assistant Principal and an Athletic Director position at Mt. Blue High School and created a full time Assistant Principal/Athletic Director position.

The district closed the Central Office Building in New Sharon and relocated the office to the basement of the middle school. The building was returned to the Town of New Sharon. This will result in an un-inflated savings of around \$40,000 annually.

We are active members of the Western Maine Educational Collaborative. We have been involved in joint staff development activities in student literacy and NWEA assessment training. These two issues have saved the district over \$20,000. Our librarians have worked together with eight other school systems to select a new library software program. This joint venture will produce a financial saving over doing this work alone. Also, our district with four other systems worked together to employ a third party vendor to oversee our 403b plans. We received a 33% reduction on membership costs. These are just a few examples of ways we are trying to establish efficiencies while improving academic instruction and assessment within the district.

We have also joined together with the Jay school system, Franklin County government, and five of our nine towns to lock in fuel prices for the 2009/10 school year. This alone will result in a budgeted savings of \$75,000 for next year. In 2008/09 we locked in fuel oil with Jay and several of our towns and county government at a price ~\$2.64 per gallon.

As a system we are continually looking for ways to work together with neighboring school systems and towns.

This year we entered into a new copier contract and the vendor agreed to offer our prices to all nine towns within the district. I don't have an accurate figure on how many took advantage of the program and what the savings to the towns might be.

We also supply many of the towns with copy paper and custodial products through our district bid process. We offer to deliver these products to the towns via our school bus system.

We share a Technology Manager with MSAD #58 and have been doing that for several years. This allows both systems to benefit from one individual overseeing the technology operations and Angel has done an outstanding job expanding instructional technology opportunities and equipment at the high school and elementary schools within MSAD #9. Our district has also entered into joint technology purchases with MSAD #58.

### **Operation and Maintenance of Plant**

As mentioned earlier, we closed the Central Office Building in New Sharon and we also closed the Weld Elementary School, due to declining enrollment.

Joint purchases in the area of fuel oil, copier replacements/maintenance, custodial supplies and copy paper are listed above.

We are in the process of removing two oil fired boilers and installing dual wood pellet/oil burners (Cape Cod Hill School and Academy Hill School)

We eliminated two custodian positions in this year's budget and will leave two open positions unfilled this year to help with funding curtailments.

Three years ago, we entered into a contract with ibControls and put in new electronic monitoring systems through out the school system. We have reduced electrical usage and oil consumption. We also upgraded several components of our heating system to make them more effective and efficient.

### **Transportation:**

The district has been consolidating bus runs over the last three years. We have eliminated four runs to date, with the downside that students are now spending more time traveling to and from school. This year we eliminated one bus driver/maintenance position, the position of a lead driver and a lube technician. We also eliminated the position of Assistant Director of Support Services and created a position of "Transportation Specialist" who is responsible for driver training, routing, and employee evaluations.

We purchased and use routing software to enhance routing efficiencies. The district established and implements a 15 year cycle for bus replacements and the bus fleet was standardized many years ago, which allows for efficiencies in stocking parts and completing repairs.

### **Special Education:**

Our district's identification rate for 07/08 was 14%, which is below the State average. We expend only 10.5% of our budget for special education services, which compares favorably to 13.95% spent on average across the State. In fact, we spend 25% less than State average on special education services. We currently have no students placed outside the district and we eliminated one and one-half teaching positions last year.

### **Other Efficiencies:**

The local tax commitment has continued to decrease since 2004/05. In 2004/05 the average local mill rate was 11.97 mills and in 2008/09 it is around 8.98 mills. This is a decrease of almost 3 mills or ~ 25%.

The Administration and Board of Directors use the ratios given in EPS as a guide regarding number of professional positions. This year we eliminated three elementary classroom positions, one elementary foreign language position, two technology integrator positions, a forestry instructor at the Vocational Center, half an English and half a business education teaching position at the High School, reduced a full time health

teaching position and family and consumer science teaching position at the Middle School each to half time.

As mentioned earlier, the board voted and the taxpayers of Weld supported closing that elementary school and the Central Office was relocated and a second building closed. The Board of Directors voted to offer both buildings back to the respective towns. The town of New Sharon voted to accept the building and have relocated their town office into that facility. We still provide some services to the town regarding the heating and upkeep on the building. Weld will vote at the annual town meeting next spring whether or not to accept the building.

The following sheet shows savings by category and year.

December 30, 2008

	Savings	Year savings were(will be) realized
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System/School Administration		
eliminate 1/2 accounts payable position & p/t payroll position	24,283	2007-2008
eliminate 40% asst. superintendent	35,945	2008-2009
eliminate asst. principal, create asst.principal/athletic director	48,448	2008-2009
eliminate Weld school administration	7,550	2008-2009
eliminate technology manager, share with MSAD #58	8,218	2005-2006

Operation and Maintenance of Plant		
close Central Office Building, returned building to town	31,153	2009-2010
close Weld Elementary School	26,266	2009-2010
replace two oil boilers with wood pellet burners	46,200	2009-2010
eliminate 2 custodian positions	71,239	2008-2009
reduce oil consumption	90,489	2008-2009
reduce electric usage	73,722	2008-2009

Transportation		
eliminate bus driver/maintenance position	22,825	2008-2009
eliminate lead driver	46,132	2008-2009
eliminate 75% lube technician	24,835	2008-2009
eliminate asst. director, create transportation specialist	- 0	2008-2009

Special Education		
eliminate 1.5 teacher	58,739	2008-2009

	2007-2008 Budget	2008-2009 Budget	%age change
System Administration	1,011,098	763,377	-24.50%
School Administration	1,159,687	1,130,294	-2.53%
Oper/Maint of Plant *	3,789,262	3,787,726	-0.04%
Transportation **	1,813,102	1,853,964	2.25%
Special Education	2,444,544	2,504,478	2.45%

\*includes a 25% increase in the oil budget

\*\*includes a 26% increase in the diesel budget